

#### INTRODUCTION

On May 16, when I reported to you on the distribution of the Salk poliomyelitis vaccine, I indicated that this supplemental report would be submitted to you on or about July 1. During the time since my earlier report, the Department has been concerned with two basic problems: (1) the safety of the vaccine, and (2) the voluntary control plan for allocating supplies of the vaccine. The primary purpose of this report is to review developments in connection with the voluntary control plan for equitable distribution of the vaccine. This is done in the perspective of safety and supply considerations.

#### SUMMARY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN THE SUBJECT TO SALK POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE SINCE MAY 16, 1955

##### Safety Matters

Although my previous report dealt almost wholly with the problems of equitable distribution, it also emphasized that "safety of the vaccine must be the paramount consideration; and the questions of safety in quantity production must be determined by the best scientific advice, uninfluenced by any other factors".

On June 10, the Public Health Service technical report on Salk poliomyelitis vaccine, primarily dealing with questions of safety, was made public. It included a detailed review of the events that led up to the temporary cessation of the vaccination program and a technical evaluation of the safety standards for testing vaccine. It also described the reasons for amending the Minimum Requirements for testing. These technical studies were completed with the invaluable cooperation of outstanding scientists who were--and are--serving as special consultants to the Public Health Service. The cooperation of the manufacturers themselves was a key factor in bringing these studies to a successful conclusion.